

# EXHIBIT A

PAUL, WEISS, RIFKIND, WHARTON &amp; GARRISON LLP

2001 K STREET, NW  
 WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1047  
 TELEPHONE (202) 223-7300

DIRECT DIAL: (202) 223-7407  
 EMAIL: [KSMITH@PAULWEISS.COM](mailto:KSMITH@PAULWEISS.COM)

NEW YORK  
 BEIJING  
 BRUSSELS  
 HONG KONG  
 LONDON

LOS ANGELES  
 SAN FRANCISCO  
 TOKYO  
 TORONTO  
 WILMINGTON

November 22, 2024

**VIA MDL CENTRALITY, CERTIFIED MAIL, AND EMAIL**

Re: MDL 3084 – Order re Withdrawal of Counsel in Case No. 3:24-cv-03965-CRB, MDLC ID 1448

Dear J.C.,

We write on behalf of our client, Uber Technologies Inc. (“Uber”), regarding *J.C. v. Uber Technologies, Inc., et al.*, 3:24-cv-03965-CRB, MDLC ID 1448, which you filed in *In re Uber Technologies, Inc. Passenger Sexual Assault Litigation*, 3:23-md-03084-CRB (“the MDL”). On October 29, 2024, Nigh Goldenberg Raso & Vaughn, PLLC moved to withdraw its representation of you on the grounds that your counsel “has been unable to reach [you] since July 23, 2024.” *J.C.*, No. 3:24-cv-03965-CRB, ECF 8 at 2 (Exhibit 1). On November 18, 2024, the Court granted that motion. *J.C.*, No. 3:24-cv-03965-CRB, ECF 9 at 1 (Exhibit 2). It is our understanding that you have not found replacement counsel and are no longer represented by an attorney. If that understanding is incorrect, please provide this communication to your attorney, and have your attorney contact us via the information provided above or below as soon as possible.

The Court’s Order states that “Within 28 days of this order, each plaintiff shall file a notice indicating whether they intend to pursue the action with new counsel or representing themselves. If any plaintiff does not file that notice, the Court will dismiss their case without prejudice.” Exhibit 2 at 1. The Court also ordered Uber’s counsel to “provide a copy of this order to the plaintiff.” *Id.* The Court’s Order is attached to this correspondence as Exhibit 2. Per this Order, you must “file a notice indicating whether [you] intend to pursue the action with new counsel or representing [yourself]” within 28 days of November 18, 2024, i.e. by Monday, December 16, 2024, or else “the Court will dismiss [your] case without prejudice.”

We ask that you please email us confirmation of your receipt of this letter, via email to [ksmith@paulweiss.com](mailto:ksmith@paulweiss.com) and [rcunningham@paulweiss.com](mailto:rcunningham@paulweiss.com), at your earliest opportunity. If you would like to discuss the letter’s contents further, please let us know, and we would be happy to organize a meet and confer.

PAUL, WEISS, RIFKIND, WHARTON & GARRISON LLP

J.C.

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Sincerely,

**PAUL, WEISS, RIFKIND, WHARTON &  
GARRISON LLP**

By: /s/ Kyle Smith

Kyle Smith  
2001 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
(202) 223-7407  
ksmith@paulweiss.com

# Exhibit 1

**NIGH GOLDENBERG RASO & VAUGHN PLLC**  
Marlene Goldenberg (*Pro hac vice*)  
Sam Hoeft (*Pro hac vice*)  
14 Ridge Square NW  
Third Floor  
Washington DC 20016  
Phone: (202)-792-7927  
Facsimile: (202)-792-7927  
Email: [mgoldenberg@nighgoldenberglaw.com](mailto:mgoldenberg@nighgoldenberglaw.com)  
[shoeft@nighgoldenberglaw.com](mailto:shoeft@nighgoldenberglaw.com)

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

**IN RE: UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.,  
PASSENGER SEXUAL ASSAULT  
LITIGATION**

No. 3:23-md-03084-CRB

**NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION TO  
WITHDRAW AS COUNSEL FOR  
PLAINTIFF J.C.**

### This Document Relates to:

Judge: Honorable Charles R. Breyer

Date:

Time:

### Courtroom:

## **NOTICE OF MOTION & MOTION**

TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR COUNSEL OF RECORD, PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that as soon hereafter as the matter may be heard, Nigh Goldenberg Raso & Vaughn, PLLC (“NGRV”), counsel of record for Plaintiff J.C. (“Plaintiff”), moves this Court for an order permitting its withdrawal as counsel for Plaintiff.

This Motion is made pursuant to Local Rule 11-5(a) and C. This Notice of Motion & Motion is based on the below Memorandum in Support and the accompanying Declaration of Samantha Hoefs (“Decl.”), attached hereto as Exhibit A. A Proposed Order is attached as Exhibit B.

**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO WITHDRAW AS COUNSEL**

Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 11-5(a) and California Rules of Professional Conduct 1.16(b)(4) and 1.16(d), NGRV submits this Memorandum of Law in support of its Motion to Withdraw as Counsel for Plaintiff J.C. NGRV respectfully requests the Court grant the Motion.

## STATEMENT OF FACTS

Plaintiff retained NGRV to prosecute an action against Defendants. Plaintiffs' claims were filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California as Case No. 3:24-cv-03965 on July 1, 2024. NGRV has been unable to reach Plaintiff since July 23, 2024. *See Decl. ¶ 3–4.* NGRV made numerous attempts to contact Plaintiff via phone, email, letter, and text message. *Id.* NGRV repeatedly attempted to explain why Plaintiffs' participation was necessary to prosecute this case. *Id.* NGRV's communications have noted discovery deadlines, explained the risk of dismissal, and explained that NGRV could not continue to represent Plaintiff without her input. *Id.*

On October 8, 2024, NGRV formally advised Plaintiff that it may withdraw from representation if she did not contact NGRV by October 10, 2024; NGRV notified Plaintiff again on October 9, 2024 that it would withdraw from her case if she did not contact NGRV by October 10, 2024. Decl. ¶ 4. NGRV also offered Plaintiff the option to voluntarily dismiss her case. Decl. ¶ 5. On October 15, 2024, NGRV notified Plaintiff that it would move to withdraw from her case. *Id.* NGRV

1 also notified Uber of its intent to withdraw. *Id.* To date, Plaintiff has not contacted NGRV, has not  
 2 agreed to voluntarily dismiss her case, and has not informed NGRV that alternate counsel has been  
 3 retained. Decl. ¶ 6. NGRV thus remains counsel of record for Plaintiff, but also remains unable to  
 4 reach her.

5 **ARGUMENT**

7 NGRV should be permitted to withdraw as counsel for Plaintiff. An attorney may withdraw from  
 8 a case by obtaining an order from the court after reasonable advance written notice has been provided to  
 9 the client and to all other parties. Civ. L.R. 11-5(a); *see also* Cal. Rules Prof. Conduct 1.16(d)(1).

10 NGRV has given appropriate advance notice of its intent to withdraw to Plaintiff beginning on  
 11 October 8, 2024 and culminating with final notice on October 15, 2024. Decl. ¶¶ 4–5. NGRV has also  
 12 given Uber advance notice. Decl. ¶ 7. NGRV has taken all possible steps to avoid prejudice to Plaintiff  
 13 by explaining to her the possible consequences of failing to contact NGRV or meet discovery deadlines.  
 14 Decl. ¶¶ 3–5. NGRV also submitted the limited information NGRV did have and, upon receiving  
 15 deficiencies due to not having critical information from Plaintiff, negotiated discovery extensions with  
 16 Uber as it attempted to try to reach her. Decl. ¶ 3–5. NGRV has thus taken all reasonable steps to avoid  
 17 foreseeable prejudice to Plaintiff. Decl. ¶¶ 3–5.

19 Under California Rule of Professional Conduct 1.16(b)(4), a lawyer may withdraw from a case if  
 20 “the client … renders it unreasonably difficult for the lawyer to carry out the representation effectively.”  
 21 Here, Plaintiff rendered it unreasonably difficult for NGRV to carry out the representation effectively by  
 22 failing to communicate with NGRV and failing to provide information required to prosecute her case,  
 23 despite requests from NGRV. Decl. ¶¶ 3–5. NGRV has been unable to meet discovery deadlines in this  
 24 case because, for example, the Plaintiff Fact Sheet requires Plaintiff’s input and verification. Therefore,  
 25 Plaintiff’s conduct falls into the express terms of Rule 1.16 regarding permissive withdrawal.  
 26

27 Because this motion is not accompanied by a substitution of counsel or an agreement by Plaintiff  
 28 to proceed pro se, NGRV agrees to the condition imposed by Local Rule 11-5(b) to serve Plaintiffs with

1 all papers in this matter, unless or until Plaintiff appears pro se, other counsel appears on Plaintiff's behalf,  
2 or upon further order of the Court. Decl. ¶ 9.

3 **CONCLUSION**

4 NGRV respectfully requests that the Court enter an order terminating its representation of  
5 Plaintiff and allowing Plaintiff 30 days to retain new counsel.

6 Dated: October 29, 2024

7 Respectfully submitted,

8 /s/ Samantha Hoefs  
9 Samantha Hoefs (Pro Hac Vice)  
10 Marlene Goldenberg (Pro Hac Vice)  
11 **NIGH GOLDENBERG RASO & VAUGHN**  
12 **PLLC**  
13 14 Ridge Square NW, Third Floor  
14 Washington, DC 20016  
15 Tel.: (202) 978-2228  
16 Fax: (202) 792-7927  
17 Mgoldenberg@nighgoldenberg.com  
18 Shoefs@nighgoldenberg.com

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on October 29, 2024, I electronically filed the foregoing using the CM/ECF system which will serve notification of such filing to all counsel of record and certify that a copy of this document was sent by mail to Plaintiff.

Furthermore, on October 29, 2024, I electronically filed the foregoing in Plaintiff's individual docket using the CM/ECF system which will serve notification of such filing to all counsel of record and certify that a copy of this document was sent by mail to Plaintiff.

/s/ Samantha Hoefs  
Samantha Hoefs

1 **NIGH GOLDENBERG RASO & VAUGHN PLLC**  
2 Marlene Goldenberg (*Pro hac vice*)  
3 Sam Hoefs (*Pro hac vice*)  
4 14 Ridge Square NW  
5 Third Floor  
6 Washington DC 20016  
7 Phone: (202)-792-7927  
8 Facsimile: (202)-792-7927  
9 Email: [mgoldenberg@nighgoldenberg.com](mailto:mgoldenberg@nighgoldenberg.com)  
10 shoefs@nighgoldenberg.com

7 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
8 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
9 **SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

11 **IN RE: UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.,**  
12 **PASSENGER SEXUAL ASSAULT**  
13 **LITIGATION**

14 No. 3:23-md-03084-CRB

15 **DECLARATION OF SAMANTHA HOEFS**  
16 **IN SUPPORT OF NGRV'S MOTION TO**  
17 **WITHDRAW AS COUNSEL FOR**  
18 **PLAINTIFF J.C.**

19 This Document Relates to:

20 *J.C. v. Uber Technologies, Inc., et al.*  
21 Case No. 3:24-cv-03965

22 I, Samantha Hoefs, declare:

23 1. I am an attorney in the law firm of Nigh Goldenberg Raso & Vaughn PLLC. I am admitted  
24 *pro hac vice* to practice before this Court. I make this declaration based on my own personal  
25 knowledge. If called upon to testify, I could and would testify competently to the truth of the  
26 matters stated herein:

27 2. Plaintiff J.C. has not responded to any efforts to reach her made by myself or my staff since  
28 July 23, 2024.

29 3. Plaintiff J.C.'s failure to communicate with our firm has presented a circumstance covered by  
30 Rule 1.16(b)(4) of the California Rules of Professional Conduct. We are unable to meet

1 discovery deadlines and otherwise prosecute her case without her input. It is my opinion that  
2 our withdrawal from the case has become necessary.

3 4. Under the California Rules of Professional Conduct 1.16(d), my firm has taken all reasonably  
available steps to avoid prejudice to the rights of Plaintiff J.C.

5 a. Before and throughout the time period described below, Plaintiff J.C received  
6 numerous letters, emails, text messages, and telephone calls requesting that she contact  
7 our office. These communications included 5 letters, 20 phone calls, 29 emails, and 33  
8 text messages. In these unanswered communications, we repeatedly explained the  
9 need for her continued participation in the case, the risk that her case may be dismissed,  
10 and that we would need to withdraw as counsel, if she did not contact our office.

11 b. Throughout the course of our representation of Plaintiff J.C., she was minimally  
12 responsive, before ceasing communication altogether. In advance of the Plaintiff Fact  
13 Sheet Deadline, our office notified Plaintiff J.C. by telephone call, email, text message,  
14 and letter that we required input from her to complete her Plaintiff Fact Sheet but did  
15 not receive the requested information from her in advance of the deadline. Our office  
16 submitted a Plaintiff Fact Sheet on Plaintiff J.C.'s behalf to avoid prejudice to her but  
17 could not complete the Plaintiff Fact Sheet without input from Plaintiff J.C., resulting  
18 in a deficiency. We notified Plaintiff J.C. by telephone call, email, text message, and  
19 letter that we needed input from her to correct the Plaintiff Fact Sheet deficiencies by  
20 the deadline to avoid dismissal of her case, but J.C. was nonresponsive to these  
21 communication attempts.

22 c. On October 8, 2024, we sent Plaintiff J.C. an email explaining that if she did not  
23 contact us by October 10, 2024, we would choose to withdraw as counsel; this letter  
24 also offered Plaintiff the option to voluntarily dismiss her case. On October 9, 2024,  
25

1 we sent Plaintiff J.C. a text message explaining that if she did not contact us by October  
2 10, 2024, we would choose to withdraw as counsel.

3 d. On October 15, 2024, we sent Plaintiff formal notice of our intent to withdraw as  
4 counsel by email and US mail.

5 5. During this time period, we met and conferred with Defendants to request and obtain multiple  
6 extensions to cure Plaintiff Fact Sheet deficiencies that resulted from our inability to obtain  
7 Plaintiffs' input and verification.

8 6. To date, Plaintiff J.C. has not agreed to voluntarily dismiss her claims and has not informed  
9 our firm that alternative counsel has been retained.

10 7. We informed Uber of our intent to withdraw from this case on October 15, 2024.

11 8. Our withdrawal from this case will not impact the timing or schedule of this litigation, and we  
12 have taken all reasonable steps possible to avoid prejudice to Plaintiff by informing her of her  
13 options and the consequences of failing to comply with case deadlines.

14 9. I understand that pursuant to Local Rule 11-5(b), leave to withdraw may be conditioned on  
15 our firm continuing to accept papers to forward to the client. We are able to accept this  
16 responsibility.

17 Executed this 29th day of October, 2024 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

18  
19 /s/ Samantha Hoefs  
20 Samantha Hoefs  
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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

**IN RE: UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.,  
PASSENGER SEXUAL ASSAULT  
LITIGATION**

No. 3:23-md-03084-CRB

**[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING  
NGRV'S MOTION TO WITHDRAW AS  
COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFF J.C.**

### This Document Relates to:

*J.C.. v. Uber Technologies, Inc., et al.*  
Case No. 3:24-cv-03965

This matter comes before the court on the Motion of Nigh Goldenberg Raso & Vaughn PLLC (“NGRV”) to withdraw as counsel for Plaintiff J.C. in the above-captioned case pursuant to Local Rule 11-5 and California Rules of Professional Conduct 1.16(b)(4) and 1.16(d).

1. NGRV's Motion is GRANTED. NGRV and its attorneys are terminated as counsel of record for Plaintiff J.C.
2. Pursuant to Local Rule 11-5(b) NGRV is ordered to serve all notices, papers, or pleadings on Plaintiff by regular mail until such time as these Plaintiffs appear *pro se* or counsel appear on their behalf.

## IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated:

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HON. CHARLES R. BREYER  
United States District Court Judge

# Exhibit 2

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

IN RE: UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.,  
PASSENGER SEXUAL ASSAULT  
LITIGATION

MDL No. 3084

**ORDER GRANTING MOTIONS TO  
WITHDRAW AS COUNSEL**

Re: Dkt. Nos. 1683, 1806, 1807, 1815

This Order Relates To:

*A.P. vs. Uber Inc.*,  
Case No. 3:23-cv-06357-CRB

*J.C. vs. Uber Inc.*,  
Case No. 3:24-cv-03965-CRB

*T.L. vs. Uber Inc.*,  
Case No. 3:24-cv-03966-CRB

*K.R. vs. Uber Inc.*,  
Case No. 3:23-cv-06313-CRB

The motions to withdraw filed by Plaintiffs' counsel in the above-captioned cases are granted. Within 28 days of this order, each plaintiff shall file a notice indicating whether they intend to pursue the action with new counsel or representing themselves. If the plaintiff does not file that notice, the Court will dismiss their case without prejudice.

Uber's counsel shall provide a copy of this order to the plaintiff and file a declaration within 7 days of this ruling explaining how they did so.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated: November 18, 2024



CHARLES R. BREYER  
United States District Judge